
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



SAN DIEGO UNIT

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RELEASE
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ARSONIST SUSPECT ARRESTED

SAN DIEGO COUNTY – On Tuesday August 27th at 6:00 p.m., Peace Officers from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), arrested Jonathan Patrick Klausen, age 19, a “Corpsmember – Firefighter Specialist” for the California Conservation Corps (CCC), from the La Cima Fire Center.

Klausen was charged with five counts of arson, Penal Code Section 451c, which is a felony. He was booked into the San Diego County Jail, and is being held on \$250,000 bail (\$50,000 per count). Klausen is suspected of starting five fires in the Julian area on August 27, 2002 in the early morning hours.

A special thanks goes to the citizens of Julian for their quick reporting of the fires, and observations that helped lead to an arrest. Agencies that participated in the investigation and arrest of the suspect include the San Diego Sheriffs Office, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms.

State CCC Director Wes Pratt said the fires and the corpsmember's arrest sadden the California Conservation Corps, but stressed the rarity of the situation. "We have had thousands of corpsmembers who have fought fires in the CCC and many have gone on to long careers with fire agencies," Pratt said. "This incident is an aberration and extremely unfortunate."

